

The Farmington Times

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THE BONDING QUESTION

Another Southeast Missouri county has shown its faith in the good road movement that is taking on renewed activity. Last Saturday Wayne county, by a five to one vote, carried the proposition to bond itself for \$200,000 for road construction and improvement. Isn't it full time for St. Francois County to stir itself in this matter? What is to be gained by delay, for it must come at last if we would hold a creditable place among the progressive and public spirited counties of the State?

Wayne is a small county, with a population of but little more than 15,000 and an assessed valuation of taxable wealth of only \$3,991,249. St. Francois county has a population of over 35,000, more than double that of Wayne county, an assessed valuation of wealth approximating \$14,000,000, or three and a half times greater than that of Wayne county, and the largest and wealthiest lead mining industry in the world besides a rich and prosperous farming and live stock raising community. Yet Wayne throws out her hands and shouts to us, "Come on in, boys, the water's fine and the season is upon you."

County Court is in session this week. You can't get up your petition for a bond issue election and present it to the court for action to-day; but the court meets on the first Monday of each month, and by the first Monday in June you can have your petition ready. What are you waiting for? Bestir yourselves, you good roads people. Put some good hustlers in the field and start them out with petitions for signers in every town and township. We believe the people are ripe for the movement, and two or three days' active work would secure a petition with many more names than the law requires. Get it in shape and present it to the court at its adjourned term on the first Monday of June asking the submission of a bond issue of \$250,000 to the voters of the county.

Don't hesitate over the question of taxes. Your road tax will not or ought not to be increased a single cent should the proposition carry—and we have no doubt that it would carry by a good legal majority of over two-thirds. As we told you last week, you are now paying a road tax which, together with the revenue derived from other sources for road purposes, creates a sufficient sum to pay the interest on a bonded indebtedness of \$250,000 and leave a surplus of 20,000 or more for a sinking fund each year with which to pay off the bonds.

Did you look over the annual statement of the receipts and expenditures of the county published last week in The Times and several other county papers? By that statement you may see that there was raised from current taxes and other sources of revenue over \$39,000 for road purposes, besides more than \$2,000 raised by private subscription for work on certain roads. Of this amount \$2,882.46 came from dramshop licenses—which for the moral good and well being of the county we will not receive this year—but leaving that out, the road fund of 1915 amounted to about \$37,000. The interest on \$250,000 in bonds at 5 per cent would be \$12,500, leaving approximately \$24,500 for a sinking fund to apply to the principal of the bonds. This year, however, the assessed valuation of the county has been raised to approximately \$14,000,000, so that the aggregate revenue from road taxes will be larger than it was last year, and would create even a larger sinking fund.

It may be clearly seen from this that bonding the county need not increase the taxes; in fact, the road tax might be lowered to 20 cents on the hundred dollars valuation and then raise a sufficient revenue to pay the interest on \$250,000 in bonds and leave \$15,000 for a sinking fund. The

important point, however, is that a bond issue would give us ready money so that we could construct and improve our roads without the necessary delays under our present year-to-year plan and reap at once the use and advantages of a thorough system of good roads.

Aren't you ready to take hold of this enterprise right now?

AN UNPROFITABLE WRANGLE

President A. Ross Hill of the Missouri State University and State Auditor Gordon have the past week been engaged in an unprofitable newspaper controversy over State finances. It appears that the Auditor has refused to draw warrants for certain requisitions made by the University on the general revenue fund of the State, holding that the depleted condition of that fund will not admit of it; that the bills or requisitions for which he refuses to draw warrants are not preferred claims and to pay them would embarrass the Treasury in meeting claims which, in his construction of the law governing appropriations, have priority.

Since January, according to President Hill's contention, these unpaid bills amount to \$83,000, and the Auditor has discriminated against the University in his policy of drawing warrants. Auditor Gordon declares that he has practiced no discrimination, that all the State institutions are treated alike in this matter, and warrants for University salaries have been regularly drawn and paid, contrary to Mr. Hill's charge that warrants for teachers' salaries have been discounted at Columbia banks, are unpaid and drawing interest.

We know nothing of the merit of this controversy between the head of the State University and Auditor Gordon, over which partisan Republican papers and politicians are trying to manufacture campaign capital and create the impression that the State Treasury is bankrupt, all on account of Democratic mismanagement or rascality. Instead of bankruptcy there are several millions in the Treasury belonging to the Capital building fund, the State school fund, etc., and only is the general revenue fund low. The latter fact is generally known, we believe, and it is not an unusual condition. Our Legislatures have been in the bad habit of making haphazard appropriations far in excess of the estimated revenue of the State, to satisfy the besieging officials of the various State institutions. This has been going on for years and under every administration the Governor has been compelled to exercise his constitutional authority to cut out many appropriations in an endeavor to bring the total of the appropriations within the State's revenue for the biennial period between sessions of the General Assembly, and is seldom ever successful in doing this.

The remedy doesn't lie in such wrangles as that in which Mr. Hill and Mr. Gordon are engaged, nor in demagogic partisan crimination and recrimination and appeals to political prejudices for campaign effect, for the same conditions have existed and the same shifting practices resorted to under both Democratic and Republican administrations. One would be as guilty as the other if there were personal or official guilt in the matter. Each has doubtless been trying to do its best under a bad system to protect the credit of the State—a system which the people and their General Assembly alone can correct and which they should lose no time in reforming.

To keep our many worthy State institutions up to the high standard that should be maintained, the State must have sufficient revenue to meet the necessary expenses. The State tax levy in Missouri is only 18 cents on the \$100 assessed valuation, the smallest of any State in the Union. It is but local taxes that are a burden, if burden they can really be called, and not the State tax, and the latter should be raised until it will, with the other sources of the State's revenue, create a sufficient fund for the expenses of an economically administered State government, say about 25 cents on the \$100 assessed valuation; and then it would probably be lower than that of any other State. There is no good sense in priding ourselves on having the lowest State tax rate

of any other State when our Treasury is in an embarrassed condition half the time.

A budget system under the management of competent and efficient men should be provided for by the General Assembly, and an amendment to the Constitution adopted positively prohibiting the Legislature exceeding the estimated anticipated revenue of the State in its appropriation bills. To be sure taxing laws should be made as equitable as possible, but no such law ever has been and we doubt ever will be devised that will prevent tax-dodging; the conscientious taxpayer has always borne the greater burden of taxation and we suppose always shall until the end of time.

While returning from St. Louis Sunday, The Times editor had the pleasure of a conversation with Hon. O. L. Munger, who was returning to his home in Piedmont to spend the day with his family. He is now actively in the race for the Democratic nomination for Congress from this District, and is putting in all the time possible in different parts of the District. He impressed us as being an excellent campaigner and a splendid gentleman. He said it was his desire and intention to visit Farmington at an early date, at which time he wanted to make a speech to the voters. He also expects to visit the Lead Belt soon, where he will make several speeches.

Several State candidates attended the meeting of the press "gang" in DeSoto last Friday and Saturday and "mixed medicine" with the scribes. Among those seeking Democratic nominations for State office were: John M. Atkinson for Governor, J. Kelly Pool for Secretary of State and George H. Middlecamp for State Treasurer. All of these gentlemen made most favorable impressions on all whom they met. Representatives were also present for James A. Houchin, gubernatorial candidate, and John P. Gordon, for State Auditor. All appeared to enjoy themselves, while adding to the enjoyment of the "gang."

When President Wilson delivered his famous message to Congress recently, stating that he had notified Germany that her illegal and inhuman warfare against merchant vessels must cease, or relations be severed, he was overwhelmed with telegrams of approval and endorsement from every State, and every important city in the country. Then the hyphenated ones got busy and sent a half ton of telegrams to Congressmen and Senators protesting against war. But these German telegrams were nearly all alike, showing that the Copperhead society had written the telegrams and passed them along to the hyphenated ones to send to their Congressmen.

Major General Hugh L. Scott on the part of the United States and Gen. Alvaro Obregon, Carranza's War Minister, on the part of the Mexican de facto government, have been in conference the past week over the question of withdrawing the United States troops from Mexican territory. No definite agreement has yet been reached, but the conference and interchanges of opinions have been very friendly and there is little doubt that a friendly understanding will be reached. But the United States is not likely to withdraw its troops until the northern part of Mexico is rid of bandits and the safety of our borders assured.

By mail, we are heir, this week, to a long-drawn-out pamphlet from our personal friend and boon companion, the Bethlehem Steel Co., entitled, "A Proposed Waste of \$11,000,000 to Build a Government Armor Plant." It fails to move us trustward as we incline to the opinion that it is better to own the hen and all the eggs she lays than to pay trust prices for the eggs. See? If Carnegie, Frick, Schwab & Co. can get rich making armor plate, why can't the government save their profits by making its own armor plate?—Dexter Statesman.

The St. Joseph Lead Company this week declared the regular quarterly dividend of two and one-half per cent payable June 20th to stock of record. The company reports its earnings as at a record rate, and it might possibly have said a record-breaking rate. The past year has certainly been a profit-reaping one for lead industries, and there is a broad smile all over the Lead Belt.

The Board of Equalization of St. Francois County has raised the assessment of the Lead Companies over \$800,000. The Farmington Times is to be congratulated on the outcome of their campaign to equalize the tax burdens of St. Francois county.—Ste. Genevieve Democrat.

Wants to See Books

Robert Holmes of St. Louis made a written demand on the Mississippi River and Bonne Terre Railway Company, the St. Joseph Lead Company and the Doe Run Lead Company to examine their books, he being a stockholder in each of these companies. This request was denied by Mr. Crane, the president, on advice of Nagle & Kirby, general attorneys for these companies, and no reason was given for the refusal.

This again forced Mr. Holmes to apply to the St. Louis Court of Appeals for a writ of mandamus to compel these companies to grant this reasonable request, it being the second time he has been forced into court to compel them to permit him to go over the books. Looks like any company whose business is properly conducted should not be afraid of any investigation, especially by one of its largest stockholders. M.

WHAT IS HUMANITY?

President Wilson is being attacked in certain quarters because he insists that America stands for "humanity." It is claimed that this term is too broad; that it implies that we are to be the champions of the people of Timbuctoo rather than of America; that the President is an impractical visionary when he pleads for "humanity."

And yet every person of humane instincts knows perfectly well what is meant by the term. We, in America, demand humanity in the treatment of the insane, of the helpless and of the criminal. When we do so we are not thinking of the tribes of the Beni Hassan or the natives of Beloochistan. Incidentally, our insistence on humanity may benefit them. So much the better.

President Wilson, in insisting on humanity in the conduct of the war, as it concerns neutrals and noncombatants, has in mind that a large number of American men, women and children have been treated with the utmost inhumanity, as a result of the belligerents ignoring those principles of humanity of which America has been and is now the champion.

It is for ourselves, our own women and our own children, that we must continue to fight brutality and demand that international law asserted to in the interest of humanity be respected and obeyed. That fight lost, all is lost. "Frightfulness" will overwhelm the world, and we may be its chief victims.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

DISCUSSING WRONG THING

Apologies of the conference between Gen. Scott and Gen. Obregon, Carranza's War Minister, and the demand of the de facto government which the latter represents, that the United States troops be withdrawn from Mexican soil, the St. Louis Republic asks and comments as follows:

Why does it not occur to Gen. Obregon that he is, as a matter of fact, discussing the wrong thing? What we want is the bandit Villa. When we get him we shall be ready and only too willing to retire from Mexico. The esteemed Constitutionalist assure us that they have the country in hand. Very well; why do they not gather in Don Pancho and hand him over to us?

We are willing to let bygones be bygones. We need not stand on explanations. We may wonder why, if the Constitutionalist are as strong as they say they are, they did not keep their bandits home to begin with, instead of letting them invade the United States and kill our citizens. But let that pass.

The present expedition into Mexico has a single object. That is to apprehend Pancho Villa and bring him back to the scene of his crimes to get justice. And if the Mexican de facto Government is as strong as it thinks it is, it is in position to settle the trouble which now disturbs by doing for us the thing we have been trying to do for ourselves. It can arrest Villa and make us a present of him.

Unless it is in a position to do this we do not see that there is anything in particular to discuss.

BIGGS FOR APPEALS JUDGE

Davis Biggs of St. Louis has announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for Judge of the St. Louis Court of Appeals. Mr. Biggs is 41 years of age, a native of Missouri, and has been actively engaged in the practice of law in the City and County of St. Louis for the past 18 years. He was educated in the public schools and the University of Virginia. He graduated in law at the St. Louis Law School. Mr. Biggs' father, Wm. H. Biggs, was elected to the position to which the son now aspires in 1888 and served twelve years.

It always looks to the average man as though the expression of "daring aviator" was a sheer waste of a good adjective.

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Do You Know That--

- Light promotes cleanliness?
- A clean mouth is essential to good health?
- Physical training in childhood is the foundation of adult health?
- The U. S. Public Health Service issues publications on hygiene and sanitation for free distribution?
- Isolation is the most efficient means of controlling leprosy?
- Headache is nature's warning that the human machine is running badly?
- Bullets may kill thousands—flies tens of thousands?
- Obesity menaces longevity?

Why Not a Square Deal?

The bread of the miner is eaten in the peril of his life. He constantly faces imminent death. His peril increases with the progress of the age. With each new invention the number of killed and injured rises; each increase in the number and size of our great engines of industry, each new speeding up of the mechanisms of industrial life brings with it fresh human sacrifices. The victories of peace have their price in dead and maimed, as well as the victories of war. As the intensity of life increases, as the hold of the weaker becomes feeble, as the struggle for existence grows ever sharper, so the peril of the life and limb of the worker is enhanced with every mechanical advance. The stage coach was more dangerous to the individual passenger than is the railroad; but where the stage coach slew its thousands the railroads slew their tens of thousands. Each year the locomotive increases the number of its victims, each year the factories maim more and kill more, each year lengthens the toll of miners who go down into the mines never again to see the light of day.

While some fatalities in the mines of the Lead Belt are inevitable, while many are maimed, many sicken, and many poisoned because of conditions beyond the reasonable power of control of employers or of the State. Yet there is no doubt that a vast amount of entirely unnecessary and easily avoidable injury is inflicted upon the miner. Notwithstanding all of the laws that have been enacted by the Legislature for the protection of his life and health, the death roll of the miner mounts higher and higher each passing year. The employers ignore the fact that the Legislature enacted laws regulating the conditions under which mines shall be operated, and it seems that no one is responsible for the enforcement of the mining laws and if there is he has and is sadly neglecting or refusing to perform his duty to his fellow man who works hundreds of feet in the bowels of the earth, and as a sworn officer of the law. This being the conditions that confront us at present, it behooves every man employed in or around the mines of the Lead Belt to take a lively interest in securing the right kind of men to fill the positions of responsibility, those who dictate the conditions under which we are compelled to work, and I will add that just so long as our working conditions are dictated from a New York skyscraper we need not look for any improvement in these conditions. What we need and demand is men on the boards of directors of the various companies of the Lead Belt with some feeling of sympathy for their fellow man, men who are interested not only in the number of dollars they are able to dig from Missouri soil, but men who have some interest in the social welfare of the people of the Lead Belt, even though the majority of them be miners. We need men on the various boards of directors like Mr. Robert Holmes of St. Louis, men who have proven by act, word and deed that they have some interest in those who produce their wealth for them. We beg you to give us representation on your boards of directors by placing men of the caliber of Robert Holmes upon them. Men who

Announcements

We are authorized to announce the candidacy of the following for nomination for the office and by the party named at the General Primary to be held on Tuesday, August 1, 1916:

DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

For Congress:
EDWARD ROBB,
of Perryville.

For Representative:
G. W. MOOTHART.

For Sheriff:
M. A. PATTERSON.
C. J. SUTTON.
B. A. EATON,
of Flat River.
L. GEORGE WILLIAMS
of Bonne Terre.
CHAS. ADAMS.

For County Treasurer:
W. T. HAILE.
H. W. COFFIELD.

For County Recorder:
C. E. PORTER.
THOS. V. BROWN.
J. H. (JOHN) CLAY.
J. A. LAWRENCE.
HENRY M. O'BANNON.

For County Assessor:
LAWRENCE O. WELLS.

For County Judge First District:
W. A. MITCHELL.
W. J. HOBBS
of Bonne Terre.

do not respect others for the number of dollars they own or control, but for what they really are.

SQUARE DEAL.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

The undersigned will receive bids until 12 o'clock on Monday, May 15th, for the erection and completion of a nine room brick school building, in accordance with the plans and specifications made by the McCarthy Lumber & Construction Co., of Farmington, Mo. These plans and specifications are now on file with the Clerk where they may be obtained by contractors who contemplate bidding on this work.

A certified check of \$300.00 is required with each bid. The right to reject any and all bids is hereby reserved.
Done by the order of the Board of Education of Doe Run, Mo., this 3d day of May, 1916.
L. F. BOURGEOIS, Pres.
H. N. BONO, Secretary.
(May 5 and 12.)

Don't wait--Subscribe NOW!